

Washington to Montana or vice versa. In order to fly into Montana you need to fly in to Salt Lake, or Denver, or one of the other western hubs and wait for one of the two or three 60 passenger flights that flies into Montana that day.

This is true for small communities throughout the West, especially in the Northwest corner that use hubs like Salt Lake City.

The conference report has the potential to improve access throughout the West. I believe it is important that the Department of Transportation ensure that this benefit is not limited to a few large cities which already have a variety of options for flying to Washington.

By enforcing this rule we are making access to DC easier for western states. The nation's Capital should be accessible without hassle to the entire country. I do not like the fact that if someone from my home state of Montana wants to come here to talk to their nations representative that they need to spend an entire day traveling, and waiting in airports for a connection.

My support for this effort dates back to when this legislation was first introduced. I want to ensure that these limited exemptions benefit the people of the West. I want to make it very clear that the limited number of exemptions should not be awarded to any one airport or airline. I hope, and expect that the Department of Transportation will ensure that the 12 slots granted by the conference are distributed proportionally, so that as many cities in the West, and especially the Northwest can benefit.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,728,253,942,273.38 (Five trillion, seven hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-three million, nine hundred forty-two thousand, two hundred seventy-three dollars and thirty-eight cents).

Five years ago, March 20, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,842,720,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty-two billion, seven hundred twenty million).

Ten years ago, March 20, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,020,566,000,000 (Three trillion, twenty billion, five hundred sixty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 20, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,707,839,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred seven billion, eight hundred thirty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 20, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$505,392,000,000 (Five hundred five billion, three hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,222,861,942,273.38 (Five trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, eight hundred sixty-one mil-

lion, nine hundred forty-two thousand, two hundred seventy-three dollars and thirty-eight cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of the 44th anniversary of Tunisian independence. On March 20, Tunisia—one of America's oldest allies—will mark its 44th year of independence, but our two nations have been sharing the ideals of freedom and democracy for a much longer time.

In 1797, our two nations signed a treaty calling for "perpetual and constant peace." Indeed, for the past 200 years, our two nations have enjoyed such a friendship. Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, or supporting Western interests during the cold war, the United States could count on Tunisia. More recently, Tunisia displayed great courage in urging other Arab nations to seek an accord with Israel. Tunisia has built on that pioneering stand by playing an important role as an honest and fair broker at delicate points in the Middle East peace process.

By adopting progressive social policies that feature tolerance for minorities, equal rights for women, universal education, a modern health system, and avoiding the pitfall of religious extremism that has tormented so many other developing countries, Tunisia has built a stable, middle-class society. In stark contrast to its two neighbors, Tunisia has been a quiet and wonderful success. In fact, Tunisia became the first nation south of the Mediterranean to formally associate itself with the European Union.

Tunisia has been a model for developing countries. It has sustained remarkable economic growth, and undertaken reforms toward political pluralism. It has been a steadfast ally of the United States and has consistently fought for democratic goals and ideals. Tunisia has responded to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's request to consider the United States as "friends and partner" in the most effective way—by its actions.

In commemoration of 44 years of independence for Tunisia, I urge my colleagues to reflect on our strong commitment to Tunisian people, who are still our friends and partners in North Africa. •

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. MCGILL

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-

time friend and Chief of Staff, Michael S. McGill. I have known Mike for nearly two decades and have had the privilege of working with him when I was Mayor of San Francisco and during my tenure in the U.S. Senate. I have a great respect and appreciation for Mike, who has devoted his life to public service and served the state of California with excellence and honor.

Mike earned a B.S. in business administration at the University of Kansas, and is still an avid Jayhawks fan. He earned his Master's in political science at the University of Texas, which prepared him for a long and distinguished career in public service. In 1967, Mike joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer and was assigned to the Model Cities Program in Fort Worth, Texas. There he committed his time and energy to issues affecting urban communities.

After moving to San Francisco in 1972, Mike developed a passion for water policy, the issue area in which he has provided me with indispensable knowledge and advice. He served for three years as executive director of the Bay Area Economic Forum, and for seven years as executive director of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). As head of SPUR, he faced competing agricultural, urban, and environmental interests, but he was able to mediate these differences to the benefit of California.

Since 1993, Mike has served as my Chief of Staff. He has done an outstanding job. He has managed my five Senate offices, which serve more than 32 million constituents. This in itself is a tremendous undertaking, and I am proud to say that Mike has succeeded in ensuring that the people of California are served with care, compassion, and efficiency.

As the cornerstone of my staff for the past seven years, Mike's dedication and integrity have earned him the respect of everyone he has worked with and advised. His door is always open, because no issue is too big or too small for Mike's attention and guidance.

In particular, Mike's advice in approaching and solving the water issues that impact California has been invaluable. In my state, water is our lifeblood, and this has made it a contentious issue. I have been thankful to have Mike's experience and insight on an issue that is by no means an easy one.

In my office, we can count on Mike and his wealth of knowledge that ranges from politics to baseball to American history. He and his wife Mary enjoy traveling throughout the country, visiting presidential homes and Civil War battlefields. He is also a dedicated father to two wonderful daughters, Deidre and Erin, who are proud of his accomplishments.

Mike will be leaving my office to return to one of his passions, urban planning, this time at the General Services

Administration. There he will work in the Public Buildings Service, managing and preserving historic buildings and landmarks. I have no doubt that Mike will be an asset to the GSA, just as he has been to my office.

It is with sadness, but also great pride, that we bid farewell to Mike McGill. He has been a true friend and a valued advisor throughout the years. Mike is one of California's treasures, and he will be sorely missed.●

RECOGNITION OF MIKE BUCK, ENUMCLAW HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, two weekends ago I had the pleasure of joining a unique group of volunteers and high school students in Enumclaw, WA, in the first steps toward restoring a forested wetland on Newaukum Creek.

This project is sponsored by the city of Enumclaw and the Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (MPSFEG). MPSFEG and the city of Enumclaw have entered into an agreement for the group to remove non-native vegetation and plan various native wetland species. The group will monitor the project for 3 years to ensure success of the project.

MPSFEG's Troy Fields and Fiona McNair were kind enough to explain the challenges facing Newaukum creek salmon, and how restoring such wetlands will increase water quality and habitat, and therefore increase the chances of young fish surviving.

MPSFEG is joined in this effort by a group of enterprising students from Enumclaw High school, led by their teacher Mike Buck. Mr. Buck has used many different sites in the watershed including this one as an outdoor laboratory for his science classes. Projects have included water quality and stream insect monitoring and restoration.

Mike's approach to teaching is unique, and one that I am wholly impressed with. He has taken it upon himself to involve these young people in science-based restoration projects where they can best witness the results of their efforts—in their own backyard.

It is for this reason that I was proud to award Mike Buck with an Innovation in Education award for excellence and creativity in hands-on science learning. This project is yet another example of why decisions affecting our children's education should be made locally, not in Washington DC. No federal bureaucrat could understand the difficult prospects Newaukum Creek salmon face in their return home to spawn. And no federal bureaucrat could successfully turn that challenge into an educational opportunity that also works for returning salmon as Mike Buck has.

Therefore, I propose to my colleagues here in the Senate that this successful

venture is further proof that local educators will be able to make the best decisions about the unique needs of their students.●

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. CALLAHAN AWARDED THE GAUDETE MEDAL FROM SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Justice John J. Callahan, New York's longest serving Judge on the Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Department. For 21 years he epitomized the honor and dignity to which all of us engaged in the political life of our nation should aspire.

What an exemplary alumni Saint Bonaventure University has chosen on which to bestow this prestigious tribute. The Gaudete Medal is awarded to leaders who have exemplified the philosophy of St. Francis of Assisi in their professional and personal lives. This spirit has been evident in Justice Callahan's dedication to his court, community, family, and his inspiring courage in spite of personal suffering.

To begin, one must know that Jack is a fellow Irish-American and the great and indispensable achievement of the Irish is that they made it American to be ethnic. He has contributed significantly to the Irish-American community in Buffalo. On the contribution of the Irish I have written:

What did the Irish do? First, they stayed in the cities, remaining highly visible. Next, they kept to their faith. Thus the Roman Catholic Church became a major American institution. Then they went into politics.

St. Bonaventure University has seen fit to honor a gentleman and a patriot. I knew of Jack's dedication to the Navy or should I say the Silent Service from working with him on numerous projects for the City of Buffalo, his cherished home. As a result of his tireless efforts all were successes.

It was back in 1978, at Jack's request, that I wrote to W. Graham Clayton who was the Secretary of the Navy at the time, to urge the Navy to name a submarine in honor of the Queen City of the Lakes. A nuclear powered attack submarine, the SSN 715 was christened the *Buffalo* in 1983 with the Judge, his wife Lillian, and their son Thomas, then a Midshipman at Annapolis, looking on. There hadn't been a ship named for Buffalo since 1922.

As a submarine veteran of World War II, the Judge felt that it was imperative that a decommissioned World War II type submarine be an integral part of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Servicemen's Park. A park that he himself helped make a reality. The USS *Croaker* is docked on the Buffalo River at the foot of Main Street in no small part to Judge Callahan's efforts. Some 20 of Jack's shipmates from the USS *Sterlet* SS 392 joined together to

reminisce about their combat days in the Pacific theater aboard the USS *Croaker* 1996. As one who served in the Pacific theater, I can attest to the existence of a special camaraderie that unites those at sea for months at a time.

After returning from the war, Jack continued his education with the help of the G.I. Bill, as did I. Jack earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from St. Bonaventure University in 1951 and a Judicial Doctorate from the University of Buffalo Law School in 1954. Jack was honored by his alma mater, the University of Buffalo, with the Distinguished Alumni Award for the Judiciary in 1989.

The son of Irish immigrants from County Kerry, Judge Callahan possesses an exemplary work ethic and ability to endure any trial. Jack and Lillian Hart Callahan will be married for 40 years this July and from their union has come eight children and soon to be nine grandchildren. They have been truly blessed.

Thomas and Mary Bridget Callahan, Jack's parents, saw that their six children received a Catholic education through the Great Depression. Jack and Lillian made the opportunity for Catholic education available to their children and were sure to stress the value of such a privilege. Those efforts were not in vain. Their sons John Joseph Jr. and Patrick Francis are physicians. Appropriately, Patrick Francis, named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, graduated from Saint Bonaventure University. Thomas, Timothy, and Michael all graduated from the United States Naval Academy. Not to be outdone—their three daughters; Mary Catherine Malley is a corporate attorney with Hodgson Russ Andrews Woods & Goodyear in Buffalo, Maureen Gallagher is a dentist, and Kathleen is my Deputy Press Secretary. I should thank Jack and Lillian for loaning her to me.

His legal background is both extensive and impressive. Judge Callahan practiced law as a trial lawyer in Buffalo for 20 years and served as a confidential clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice Ann Mikol. He was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 1975 and appointed to the Appellate Division by my good friend Governor Hugh Carey in 1979.

In his exceptional judicial career he has sat on approximately 20,000 cases. This past fall the Judge was honored by the Catholic Lawyers Guild as the recipient of the St. Thomas More Award which was given for his outstanding service to the legal community and the community at large.

It is with great pleasure that I join his family and many friends from Saint Bonaventure University and Buffalo to applaud this truly remarkable man.●